
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
Benicia, August 19, 1856.

COLONEL: By some accident I received no letters from Colonel Wright by the last mail from Oregon.

As I anticipated in my report of the 4th instant to the Lieutenant General and the War Department, Governor Stevens' volunteers succeeded in their mission to the Walla-Walla country. From their reports, as published in the Oregon papers, it appears that they attacked a party of Indians at Grande Ronde, some thirty or forty miles from Walla-Walla, in Oregon Territory, when they defeated the Indians, destroyed their supplies, and captured three hundred horses. The whole object being to plunder the Indians and prolong the war, Colonel Wright was ordered with all possible despatch to that country, with orders to arrest, disarm, and send the volunteers out of the country.

Although their attack and plundering of the Indians may increase our troubles, I do not apprehend any difficulty in bringing the Indians to terms. The Indians are anxious for peace. Governor Stevens and the satellites of Governor Curry are not for peace, but a long war and a war of extermination.

Herewith I transmit a communication from Captain Judah, dated August 7th, by which, now that the Rogue River Indians have been removed, it will be perceived that some of the whites in northern California are for making war against the Indians in that section of the try.

SECRETARY OF WAR.

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If the officers of the army could have the expending of half the money appropriated for the benefit of the Indians in California, I sincerely believe they could prevent all difficulties between the whites and the Indians. From the complaints from all quarters against the Indian Department in California, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the affairs of the department are not judiciously nor efficiently managed.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the army, New York city.
